



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Year of Growth!



FRESNO FIRE DEPARTMENT



2021 Annual Report

City of Fresno

Population:540,000
Land Area: 115 sq. miles
Elevation: 308 feet
Population Density: 4,695/sq. mi.
Population Rank: 5th in California

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Mission:

To protect and put service above all else

Vision:

Recognized as a standard of excellence
in the fire service

Core Values:

Teamwork ~ Trust ~ Commitment

Fire Chief Kerri L. Donis



In 2021, the Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department) was filled with tremendous opportunity and growth, as well as mental health stressors associated with COVID-19 impacts resulting in the multi-facted adaption processes as a result of the pandemic. Extreme weather changes impacted the Department as call volumes rose and members responded to support our neighbors. Through all of the variations of policy, established routines and implementation of various safety measures, members of the FFD did not waiver in their dedication to serve our community.

The Department engaged in an aggressive hiring campaign starting in late 2019 through 2020 to recruit entry-level Firefighters ranging from no firefighting experience to fire academy graduates. In July 2021, the first 20 were hired to fill vacancies. In October 2021, the second class of 20 were hired for new positions. Those new positions staffed our new 2-person Squads which is an improved service delivery model for responding to medical emergencies. Another class of 26 new Firefighters will start in January 2022 and those positions will add a 4th Firefighter to all five truck companies and three additional engine companies. The hiring of over 60 new Firefighters in less than 12 months is unprecedented for the FFD. This staffing improvement is much needed as we will move from 81 Firefighters on-duty each day, to 95 on-duty by May 2022.

The Department is also moving forward on a new Regional Training Center following a State funded grant of \$25 million dollars! This was a significant win for the region and FFD, as we have been utilizing a 65 year-old training tower built when the Department had only 100 members. This new facility will be a standard of excellence in training for the FFD and fire service. Additionally, the Department has several new or relocated stations in various levels of construction. The growth of the City of Fresno (City) has made it a necessity to place fire stations throughout the City in order to meet service demands and response times.

While we thought we would see early 2021 as the wind-down for COVID-19, we did not. Rather, our members continued leaning into altering their daily work activities; this included mask wearing throughout the day, daily disinfecting of the fire station and apparatus, and weekly COVID-19 testing. The unspoken mental stressors of COVID-19 affects FFD members as it does the general population. Yet, our members have continued to be unwavering in their duties to serve our citizens.

The strength of our Department is our people; they truly are our greatest resource! As Fire Chief, I am blessed to lead such talented and dedicated public servants, who all take enormous pride in serving our community!



Engine 3, protecting Downtown Fresno since 1938

Proudly Serving



FRESNO YOSEMITE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Operations Division

2021 was a very challenging year for the firefighting force of the Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department). The Department responded to 47,648 incidents from 21 fire stations. This covered an area of approximately 115 square miles with service to the City of Fresno, the Fig Garden Fire District, and Fresno Yosemite Airport. Contract services continued to the residents of the North Central Fire Protection District in the Northwest area of the city.

Fresno Fire's resources included 19 engine companies, 5 truck companies, and 2 air rescue firefighting units. Three fire stations provide specialty services such as hazardous materials response, water rescue, and urban search and rescue services. Daily staffing increased to 88 personnel on duty with the addition of 3 Squads and the addition of one additional Firefighter on Engine 11.

Total calls for service were up 11% from the previous year, and fire calls increased 30%. Structure fires decreased by approximately 7% from the previous year, while vegetation fires increased 28%. In July, Fresno experienced the most fires on record, with 670 in a single month. Furthermore, FFD responded to over 500 fires during each month of 2021. Prior to 2021, Fresno had not responded to more than 650 fires in a single month over its entire existence. FFD responded to more

than 500 fires each month, and over 600 fires in four months of the year. Additionally, the severity of fire in Fresno has resulted in the following negative impact on the residents of Fresno:

- 809 Structure fires
- 4 Civilian deaths
- 52 Injuries to Firefighters



As Fresno continued to have an increase in fire activity, California also continues to experience some of the largest wildland fires in recorded history, burning millions of acres. Fresno Fire continues to fill resource orders from agencies across the state offering support through mutual aid. This commitment helps to offset resource demands that have been depleted.

The Operations Division will continue to move forward through the deployment of new resources and the development of sites for new fire stations, while continuing to face each challenge through teamwork, trust, and commitment.



Training Division



Training Team

The Training Division was focused on enhancing firefighting safety and training for the Department in 2021 through the delivery of multi company drills, the Department Learning Management System (LMS) platform, and State Fire Marshal courses. The Triennial ARFF Drill, High Rise Drill, and RT-130 (wildland fire safety) Drill were prime examples of the commitment of our members to train for excellence.

Although it has been over six years since the Cortland Incident, the Serious Accident Review Team (SART) report still serves as a road map for the Department to pursue best industry practices and ensure the lessons learned are not forgotten. The Command & Control Committee has done an excellent job in developing policies and practices to make the fireground safer for our line personnel and ensure that everyone goes home safe. Training aids such as the first-in guides and high-rise guides were welcomed additions to the company officer tool box. Health screenings and fitness training offered through Pinnacle Training Systems have helped our members improve their overall fitness and reduce the frequency and severity of injuries, as well as identify any underlying health issues. The 56-hour Safety Officer Program has also made the fireground safer by placing a Safety Officer (Captain) on every working fire and major incident. We will continue to develop and refine the program.

A major highlight of 2021 was the award of a \$12,500,000 SAFER grant which provided for the hiring of 42 Firefighters. The first of three consecutive Firefighter Trainee academies commenced in July, the second began in October, and the third academy is scheduled to begin in January 2022. This is an exciting time of growth for the Department as we prepare the next generation of Firefighters for long and successful careers. The FFD Mentorship Program was also developed, which pairs probationary Firefighters with veteran Firefighters to help the new members integrate into the Department.

Another major highlight was the infusion of \$25,000,000 from the State for our planned Regional Training Center (RTC). The vision of a Regional Training Center that will meet the

needs of the Department for the next several generations is not a new one, but there is finally traction to move on this essential facility, along with the support of City Administration. The future is bright!

A major development was the planned implementation of two-person Squads, emergency vehicles intended to respond to medical aids and reduce the overall impact on frontline engines and trucks. Each new piece of equipment or policy requires additional training, and the Training Division helps coordinate each of these efforts.

The Training Division continued to face the challenges of living through a pandemic and its impacts in 2021. We served in the Planning Section and maintained the Department Incident Action Plan (IAP), coordinated mitigation efforts through vaccinations and delivered training as permitted. The installation of distance learning equipment at all stations was a timely improvement to navigate this "new normal".

There were improvements made to our existing facilities, including the replacement of tables and chairs and upgraded audio-visual equipment through a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) grant. Training also took delivery of an antique hose cart on loan from Fresno Firefighters Local 202 as a static display.

Other special events that the Training Division helped facilitate include Firefighter for a Day and Girls Empowerment Camp. Training staff also helped ensure that the inaugural Camp Fresno experience was able to be delivered as planned. Each of these events add to the quality of life for Fresno citizens and the investment in our young people is certainly worthwhile. We are grateful for all our agency partners who work with us throughout the year to help complete our mission. The Fire Chiefs Foundation, Fresno Police Department, Clovis Fire Department, Fresno County Fire Protection District, State Fire Training, and American Ambulance represent collaborative partnerships that strengthen the Department, and we thank you.

I would also like to thank all FFD Training Officers, both past and present, for their efforts and dedication in making the Fresno Fire Department a professional organization and for leaving it better than they found it.



Training the new recruits



Early morning attic fire



Suppression crews and Investigator Vasquez wait outside



Logistical Support Team



FFD Honor Guard



2021 Annual Statistics

Budget

General Fund.....	\$67.6M
Grants.....	\$7.9M
License & Permit	\$1.6M
Charges for Service.....	\$6.0M
Contract Fees.....	\$2.3M
Capital	\$1.2M
Total Budget.....	\$86.6M

Units

Engine Companies.....	19
Truck Companies	5
Squad Companies	3
Water Tenders	2
Patrols	4
Brush Engines	2
HazMat Units.....	1
USAR Heavy Rescue	1
Airport Rescue Vehicle	2
Water Rescue	2
Safety Officer	1

Personnel

Sworn Safety.....	347
Sworn Non-Safety.....	25
Civilian	29
Total	401

Daily Staffing

City of Fresno & FGFPD.....	88
-----------------------------	----

Incidents

Medical Aids.....	29,756
Arrivals: 86.1%	25,609
Downgrades: 13.9%	4,147
Total Fires	7,122
Structure Fires:.....	1,004
Vegetation Fires:.....	1,183
Vehicle Fires:	435
Other Types of Fires:	4,500
False Alarms.....	2,666
Hazardous Conditions.....	1,101
Service Calls.....	1,768

All Other Incidents.....	5,235
Total Incidents	47,648

Fire Loss

All Fires.....	\$51.3M
All Other Incident Types	\$1.0M
Total Loss	\$52.3M
From Arson.....	\$4.8M
Displaced Persons by Fire	1,131

Fatalities

Total Civilian Fatalities.....	11
Total Firefighter Fatalities	0

Injuries

Civilian Injuries	38
Firefighter Injuries.....	68

Fire Investigations

Total Investigations.....	639
Incendiary Fires	275
Arrests	62

Fire Prevention

5-Year Sprinkler Tests	783
New Sprinkler Inspections	5,404
Plan Reviews.....	4,325
Fire Inspections.....	3,802

Fire Shop

Repair Requests.....	3,626
Completed Repairs	3,479



Reloading fire hose after a fire



Hazmat technician training



Captain Willard rinses contaminants off firefighter



Captain Sickler returns after 20 months



Engineer Crask teaches rookies

Company Response Times

First company arrival within 4 minutes

Structure Fires Only	72%
Medical Aids.....	58%
Fires.....	67%

Effective residential firefighting force (EFF)

within 8 minutes	87%
(15 Firefighters on scene)	

Effective commercial firefighting force (EFF)

within 8 minutes	88%
(21 Firefighters on scene)	

Station Responses – 63,265

S01	5,881
S02	1,552
S03	6,410
S04	6,050
S05	4,615
S06	2,528
S07	2,941
S08	3,215
S09	5,659
S10	1,214
S11	4,608
S12	3,191
S13	2,475
S14	1,440
S15	2,117
S16	1,821
S17	983
S18	1,139
S19	2,876
S20	2,550
Airport.....	192

Company Responses – 57,570

Engine Companies 50,785

E01	3,656
E02	1,504
E03	4,838
E04	4,003
E05	4,458
E06	2,528
E07	2,865
E08	3,215
E09	3,559
E10	1,214
E11	3,024
E12	3,191
E13	2,437
E14	2
E15	2,098
E16	1,821
E17	958
E18	1,139
E19	2,323
E20	1,952

Squad Companies 398

Unit - Activated 12-14-2021

SQ03	136
SQ04	105
SQ05	157

Battalion Chiefs

BC01	872
BC02	515
BC03	540
BC04	702

Truck Companies 6,387

T01	1,255
T03	1,405
T09	1,398
T11	957
T14	1,372

Special Operations

Airport Rescue Firefighting	
(ARFF) Vehicles	192
BRS1 - Breathing Support ...	60
CERT1 -	
Community Emergency	
Response Team.....	19
HazMat Units.....	105
Investigations	710
P02 - Patrol	48
P07 - Patrol	32
P14 - Patrol	66
P17 - Patrol	25
BE03 - Brush Engine.....	12
BE15 - Brush Engine.....	19
PIO1 - Public Information	
Officer.....	22
Heavy Rescue	87
Water Rescue	38
WT07 - Water Tender	44
WT13 - Water Tender	38
SAF1 - Safety Officer	1,935
Shop.....	61

**Thank
You**

Chief Donis, I wanted to say thank you for the amazing firefighters from Engine 12 and all the others that came to help put out a fire very near to our home. We can't express how appreciative we are for their fast response and speed in putting out the fire. My family was terrified thinking it would engulf our home, but they saved it! They did an amazing job, and we are indebted to them all. Thank you for the skills, the bravery and the multitude that came out. We really appreciate it! Thank you and God Bless you all.

– Miraya Mazquiaran

Fire Investigation Unit

The Fire Investigations Unit (FIU) wears many hats within the Fresno Fire Department. The team is tasked with fire cause and origin determination, case follow up, recommendations on charges for illegal fires, professional standards investigations, background investigations and occasionally working with Code Enforcement on compliance.

The FIU has field investigators that respond out of Fire Station 20, to all working structure fires, requests from officers and to all instances where there is suspicion of an illegally set fire. Staff investigators assist field FIU members with follow up information gathering, lead development and serve as the interface between the Fresno Fire Department, the Fresno Police Department and the District Attorney's Office. Additionally, many of the FIU members are trained to conduct professional background investigations and professional standards investigations.

As our call volume continues to increase within Fresno Fire our FIU has answered the call as we have seen a continued increase in homeless related fires and fires within unoccupied/vacant buildings.

Arrests	54
Cases for Tessa (K9)	23
Citations for fire	21
Illegal Fireworks Citations	64
Investigations completed	527

The FIU balances the needs of fire investigations with the duties of background and professional standards investigations. By the end of 2021, the FIU will have completed over 90 background investigations so that the FFD can continue to improve staffing levels.

The FIU continues to strive to be a leader in the fire investigations industry by continually honing our craft through professional fire investigations and offering quality training to Department members and surrounding agencies.



Teaching moment as Investigator Henry works with Firefighter Cotton on determining origin and cause at a residential fire in southeast Fresno.

CERT

Since its founding, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has prepared more than 1,350 residents to be ready to serve our neighbors and support our first responders when called on. In 2021, CERT remained focused on providing essential support to the Fresno Fire Department (FFD) and our community. While in-person classroom training remained impacted, a robust campaign of volunteer and community education and engagement continued virtually and at outdoor venues. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that the CERT volunteer team remained engaged, and mission-ready through participation in the full-scale Triennial Airport Exercise, Air National Guard multi-agency active shooter exercise, FFD's Firefighter for a Day, 9/11 Remembrance, amateur radio programs, and other special events. During this year's record-breaking season of more than 65 days over 100 degrees, the CERT Rehab Team responded to 19 emergent calls for Firefighter rehabilitation at residential, commercial and vegetation fires, an intensive canal search, and hazmat incidents. Since the team received its response vehicle in 2009, the Rehab Team has been deployed a total of 187 times, making it one of the most experienced teams in the nation.



CERT Rehab Team assisting firefighters at a large warehouse fire

Fire Shop / Fleet Unit

The Fire Shop consists of 14 personnel that cover two shifts while operating 24/7 on-call services and support for the Fire Department. The Fire Shop is responsible for preventative maintenance, routine and emergency service repairs of all fifty-four pieces of heavy/medium duty equipment fleet, light duty fleet, and the countless small motors utilized to keep the Department operational. The Fire Shop has also engaged in several special projects to keep all apparatus in top working order including the testing of ground and aerial ladders.

The Fire Shop fosters an environment of training and education, with several of the mechanics achieving Fire Mechanic certification levels from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the remaining mechanics earning their required ASE certifications. During the last year, the Fire Shop completed 1,600 work orders (repair, maintenance, etc.) for fire apparatus requiring 13,228 mechanic hours to complete.

Fire Prevention and Support Services Division



Fire Prevention Team

The mission of the Fire Prevention and Support Services Division is to provide fire and life-safety services to the residents of the City of Fresno. These services include providing fire related plan review and field inspections for both residential and commercial new construction projects, conducting ongoing maintenance inspections on existing commercial and multi-family buildings, and participating in public education and community outreach events.

The “Fire Plans Review” and “New Construction Inspection” programs complete fire protection system plan review, including fire sprinkler/fire alarm systems, new building construction plan review, and fire protection system acceptance testing. This process ensures that fire protection and life safety systems are installed correctly and will operate as designed when called upon.

The “General Inspection Program” completes the inspection of existing buildings for compliance with applicable laws, codes, ordinances, and standards. Inspection frequencies for this program are based on requirements of State law or are determined using a risk-based approach established from a nationally recognized standard.

For 2020 – 2021, the Division was able to meet its statutory requirement to complete 100% of our State mandated inspections, which was reported to Council under SB1205 requirements. However, this success came at the cost of not completing other important inspections. Subsequently, Council added six new positions in the Prevention Division’s FY 2022 budget, and these new staff members will be fully operational by the end of the year. The Division also sought out a federal grant opportunity and was awarded funding for an inflatable public safety house to augment our public education efforts.

As the Prevention Division moves forward, it seeks to improve existing service delivery and prepare for the challenges of the future. Our current initiatives are designed to increase efficiency in the primary responsibilities of the Division as noted above and enhance our ability to respond to emerging needs of the community.

In 2022, the Division will adapt and update its programs to better fulfil operational needs. The “Fire Plans Review” program will be implementing an enhanced electronic permit application and plan review process for fire protection

systems, making it easier for applicants to submit applications and receive/review feedback. For the “General Inspection Program”, staff will be updating our records management and field inspection software program.

The Division continues with its current succession planning efforts. This process helps to ensure that current line staff receive ongoing training and mentoring to be prepared to assume leadership roles in the future, and that organizational continuity is maintained. Division staff members have also been trained and certified as California State Fire Training instructors, and the Department will be leveraging this new opportunity to provide ongoing training for both staff and our regional community partners.

Support Services Unit

The Support Services Unit ensures the Department has the supplies and equipment, informed data, and technological support necessary to effectively serve the community. The technical services offered include technology Information Systems (IS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and data analytics. IS personnel acquire and deploy hardware and software, plan for future technology upgrades, and provide technical support. GIS staff create and analyze geographic data to provide location information to Firefighters, analyze suitable sites for new facilities, and study spatial relationships in data. Data analytics staff provide daily reports regarding Department operations, analyze call volume and response times, and evaluate data to provide recommendations for acquisitions of new apparatus, facilities, and personnel. Together, these personnel provide the necessary support and technical services to help ensure the smooth operation of the Department.

Fire Facilities and Logistics Unit

The Facilities and Logistics Unit is responsible for the general maintenance of all the Department’s fire stations, fire headquarters, training facilities and associated buildings. This Unit ensures the necessary supplies are delivered to each fire station, that fire stations are functioning properly, and our facilities add value to the communities they serve. The Facilities, Supply and Logistics Unit is responsible for the project management of capital improvements, development of new facilities, ensuring the efficiency of all our buildings, including mechanical and operating systems and maintaining a safe environment for all employees and community members that enter our facilities. Fiscal year 2020 – 2021 had 507 maintenance service requests and 476 were completed. Currently, the Facilities, Supply and Logistics Unit has 327 service requests for the fiscal year and 183 have been completed.

Community Outreach



Captain Foster and Firefighter Jones give children an up-close demonstration

The Department encourages our Firefighters to seek creative and thoughtful ways to engage with the community. Events range from school carnivals and fire drills; car shows and block parties. The department also conducts fire station tours as well as home safety inspections where smoke alarms may be installed. Our hope is that these intentional and frequent interactions will build positive relationships and promote safer communities.



Students at a local school pose with their fathers after a public education event



Fire Prevention Inspector Johnson distributes fire safety materials

Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation

The Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation (FFCF) is a non-profit organization which partners with the FFD to support several programs. The Fresno Fire Department Explorer Program provides young men and women (14-22 years old) with insight into the firefighting world. The Helmets are Cool program has provided over 15,000 free helmets to children since its inception. This is done through school programs, fire station tours, and distributed by Firefighters on engine and truck companies. The Fitness for Firefighters program provides fitness equipment for all FFD fire stations to help keep our public servants healthy and fit. To learn more about the FFCF work in the community, go to the website at www.beafirehero.org.



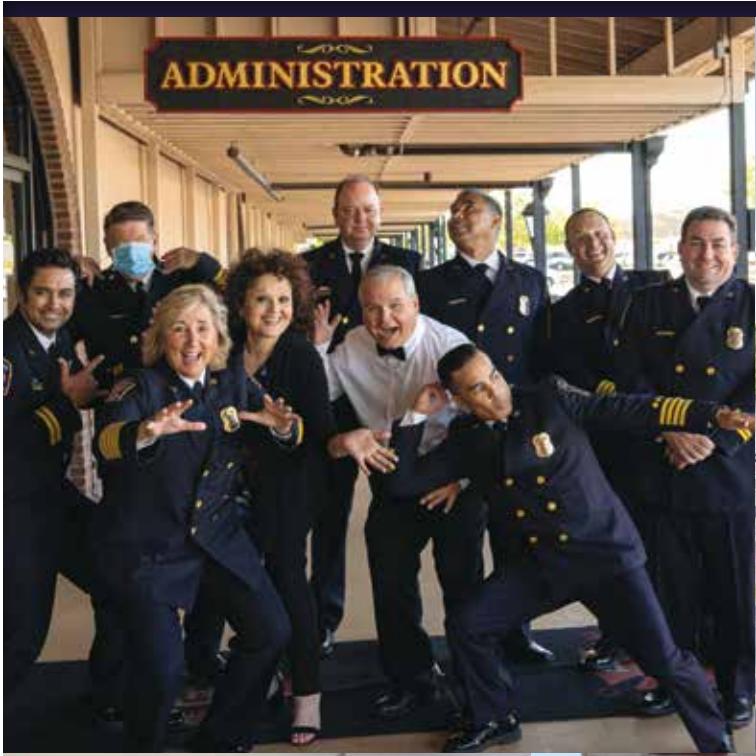
Helmets are Cool Program



Fitness for Firefighters Program



Explorer Program





Girls Empowerment Camp



Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Drill

Follow us on:

